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SHAFIZADEH VISITING RUSSIAN ACADEMIES,
CENTERS OF RESEARCH DURING JUNE

MISSOULA--

Dr. Fred Shafizadeh, professor of chemistry and director of the Wood Chemistry Laboratories at the University of Montana in Missoula, is spending the month of June visiting Russian academies and centers of research on chemistry of wood and natural products. The invitational visits overseas are in Moscow, Rega, Leningrad and Tashkand.

Shafizadeh is lecturing on the chemistry of natural products and discussing new developments on the chemistry of fire, flameproofing and chemical utilization of forest products with Russian scientists who have specialized in these fields.

The visit by Shafizadeh to Russia was arranged by Philip Handler, president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and M. V. Keldysh, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, under an inter-academy exchange program.

The UM scientist learned of final arrangements for the trip to Russia while he was attending the International Symposium on Complete Tree Utilization and Wood Chemicals at the Syracuse University School of Forestry, Syracuse, N.Y.

At the Syracuse symposium, Shafizadeh presented a paper entitled "Industrial Pyrolysis of Cellulosic Materials," which deals with conversion of wood residues into industrial chemicals.

The symposium, attended by leading scientists from the U.S. and 19 other nations, reflected the rapid pace of the international developments for conversion of wood into plastic and polymers through chemical pulp; into sugars, alcohol, single-cell protein and chemicals through hydrolysis and fermentation; and into methanol as a gasoline substitute, other types of solid and liquid fuel and various industrial chemicals through pyrolysis or the use of heat.

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"The enormous quantities of logging waste and wood residues could be used for these applications," Shafizadeh said.

"The Russians have gone even beyond these concepts and are already producing 100,000 tons per year of a vitamin supplement and nutrient called Muka, which is equivalent to clover meal, from the foliage of coniferous and deciduous trees," he added. "They are also producing alcohol, various chemicals and essential oils from forest residues."

Shafizadeh said these activities and rapid international developments "are leading to a greater appreciation and intelligent utilization of the forest resources and should have a major impact on our changing economy."

Three other scientists--Donald H. Langenberg, professor of physics at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; Kenneth Wells, professor of botany at the University of California, Davis, and William A. Gerggren, senior geologist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Mass.--are also participating in the overseas exchange program. Their expenses in Russia will be paid by the host academies and their travel expenses to and from Russia will be paid by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

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